Recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits should be aware of benefits changes happening as a result of Hurricane Laura and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. For additional information, visit www.dcfs.la.gov/SNAPLaura.

**1. AUTOMATIC 50% REPLACEMENTS IN 26 PARISHES**

SNAP recipients whose cases were certified before Aug. 27 in the following 26 parishes will receive replacements of 50% of their monthly benefit amount due to widespread power outages following Hurricane Laura:

Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, DeSoto, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, and Winn

The replacements are scheduled to be loaded onto recipients' EBT cards automatically by Sept. 13.

SNAP recipients in other parishes who lost food purchased with SNAP benefits due to a power outage of 24+ hours straight due to Hurricane Laura can request replacements by submitting a form by October 8. The form, along with instructions for submitting it, can be found online at www.dcfs.la.gov/SNAPLaura.

**2. HOT/PREPARED FOODS APPROVED - THROUGH OCT. 1**

SNAP benefits can be used, through Oct. 1, to purchase hot or prepared foods from retailers that accept EBT cards. Normally, hot or prepared food items would be prohibited purchases using SNAP benefits.

**3. SUPPLEMENTS ON SEPT. 18**

All SNAP recipients who are not currently receiving the maximum monthly allotment for their household size will receive COVID-related emergency allotments to bring them up to the maximum for September. These supplements are scheduled to be loaded onto recipients' EBT cards on Sept. 18.

**4. CERTIFICATION DEADLINES EXTENDED 3 MONTHS**

All SNAP certification deadlines have been extended for 3 months, starting in September. That means, for example, if you have a redetermination or simplified report due in September, it will now be due in December. If you have a redetermination or simplified report due in October, it will now be due in January. And so on.

**5. SEPTEMBER INTERVIEWS WAIVED**

September interviews for new SNAP applicants have been waived. All applicants must still provide the necessary documentation to demonstrate eligibility for benefits, but the formal interview has been waived.

For more information, visit www.dcfs.la.gov/SNAPLaura